

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
Recreation & Community Services Department
61 Durant Terrace
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

MINUTES

Recreation & Community Services Commission Meeting of September 15, 2016
Senior and Community Center, 61 Durant Terrace, Middletown, CT 06457
6:00 p.m. This meeting was held at Spencer School Library

Present: Phil Pessina, Mary Bartolotta, Lucy Bettencourt, Ed Dypa, Ricky Romano, Tony Jaskot, Sal Uccello, Deb Stanley

Absent: William Wasch

Staff
& Students: Deb Stanley

Public: None

Call: Meeting was called to order at 6:23 pm.

Public
Hearing: None

Minutes: Bartolotta motioned to approve the minutes from March 2016, seconded by Lucy Bettencourt. Unanimously accepted.

Report: Deb Stanly reported that the first annual National Senior Center Month Celebration was a big success.

Staff worked very hard and the members really appreciated it. She passed around letters regarding both divisions of the department.

The Fall Festival and Downtown Trick or Treat will be held Saturday, October 22, 2016. It is expected that 2,000 participants are expected to visit 75 stops.

The monthly evening special events for seniors have been very successful and most have been sell outs.

The Military Whist Party is tonight and has 90 people participating as this meeting takes place.

A series of photography contests are being offered throughout the year.

Training for the summer staff seems to become more and more involved each year. The department holds training for emergency situations, mandated reporting for suspected child abuse, the safe and proper handling of food, CPR/First aid and AED. Risk Management provided training on reporting injuries and accidents, OSHA training, medicine administration, Diabetes Oversight, epi pen training, pool training, bus training, Red Cross lifeguard and waterfront training, and sun screens. More DCF cases, custody issues, broken bones, behavior problems than usual and Deb spent a lot of time discussing these problems with the legal department.

Deb Submitted the 2017 department budget with a zero percent increase including salaries as the Mayor requested. Minimum wage going up will cost the Department about \$15K. Councilman Pessina requested a copy of the budget.

She stated that there are approximately 3,000 senior members now and enrollments were up this summer in our youth camps with about 450 children per day in attendance. With more people using services is will be a challenge to maintain a zero increase budget in the future.

CNR – Deb will be putting in for a new Senior Bus, some round tables, more chairs and maybe an awning for the pergola. Phil Pessina suggested bringing up a proposal for a new bus to the commission with data to support the need so that he and Mary can bring the matter to finance and government. There was also discussion about the difficulty in finding additional part time bus drivers that possess the required license to drive our vehicles.

The department has a new clerk as of last week – Alison Sprague. This is a part time permanent position 19.5 hours per week. The department really needs a full time clerk.

The department has been without an evening custodian for a few months. 25 people were interviewed and Deb sent over her candidate choices last week so hopefully Ramel Barnes will start very soon.

Ed Dypa stated that Rec Staff is paid 40 hours per week and Senior Staff is paid 35 hours per week. He believes this is unfair because the jobs are very similar. A discussion ensued. Deb agrees that it is unfair and explained that she has been told by Personnel that the City is moving toward all 35 hour per week jobs. Mary suggests that the senior staff grieve this on their own if their Union (466) does not support them. Mary states they should contact their local oversight group.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Old Business**-Sports Grants – There was discussion as to whether there was a vote to distribute the funding. It was decided that there was a vote and approval to distribute the funds at the March 10th meeting. Ed Dypa stated that he believes too much time is spent discussing sports grants and he would like more focus on the Senior division. Deb Stanley suggested that only one meeting be dedicated to sports grants and during that meeting the commission would discuss and vote on the grant distribution.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Commission Membership** – There was discussion about the number of meetings that have been cancelled due to lack of a quorum. There are 3 vacancies currently. Rick Romano state that he thinks we need another commissioner that is knowledgeable in the Senior Services Division of the department.

Motion: Ed Dypa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13PM. Lucy Bettencourt seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Heidi Geores
cc Town Clerk